

From: Stephen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/3/01 7:08pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement inadequate

I implore you to fight the settlement offer tendered by Microsoft and the Department of Justice. Microsoft has again and again shown its willingness to use its significant market power to shut other developers and platforms out of the software and hardware market. As a loyal Apple user for many years, I have tried to resist the Windows monopoly only to find with increasing frequency, that the service or software are no longer available to non-Windows users.

For example, Intuit stops producing Quickbooks for the Macintosh because of the market size. Microsoft never published the Access Database software for the Mac. Why, because if the Mac does not have a Office bundled database, it will be viewed as an inferior platform and business will go with the Windows version of Office. Why has the Mac been able to read Windows formatted disk for over 10 years but a Windows computer cannot read a Macintosh formatted disk? It is not a hardware problem but a software problem. You can buy third party software to do this, but Microsoft has chosen not to include this software in Windows. The only reason again can be to cripple a competing computing platform.

Now I am finding websites on the internet that are using Microsoft only technologies that exclude non-Windows platforms. The web designers have a choice but Microsoft ties the features to their software. Example is Passport and Windows Media Player. Media Player is always a version or two behind in the Mac version, so the new features will not work. Passport is a ominous concept that has already locked non-Windows users out of sites that use it. I'm not talking about small hobby sites, I have even seen this on large catalog sites. Microsoft is already using its muscle to change internet standards consortium's set standards its way.

Through experience, Microsoft will continue its ways unless stopped. The settlement is extremely inappropriate as it continues with tying products. Microsoft will give \$1 billion in software, training and hardware (which will actually cost a small fraction of this after taxes and mfg. cost), so that schools will be required to use Microsoft product to teach new computer users because that is the only way they can afford to get computers in poor schools. They have billions in the bank and can make a billion in 6 months. The actual cost of the settlement can be made in a few months of normal business and they then are free to care one their marry old ways.

Behavior must be changed. Please do all that you legally can to stop Microsoft's continued monopoly behavior. Monetary punishment will not work, you must take markets away from them like the AT&T breakup removed local telephone service from AT&T markets. That way, competition will have time to develop and survive and the market evolve.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Stephen Henry
PO Box 9660
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
slhenry@sonic.net